Trans-national threats and national security concerns: A study of Nigerian-Benin Republic border

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Abstract

This work is a research paper that tried to examine the trans-national threats posed by crimes across the Nigeria-Benin Republic border and the impacts on the national security of both countries. The study found out that such crimes as; smuggling, child and women trafficking, small and light weapon trafficking and trafficking of narcotics across the border. These crimes, the study notes pose serious threat to national security. The study which relied on primary and secondary data tested four hypotheses which gave useful guides to policy implications and recommendations that will help improve security at the Nigeria-Benin Republic border if adopted.

KEY WORDS: Trans-national Threats, Security, Nigeria, Benin Republic, Globalisation, Crime.

1. Introduction

While the international order among states is quite strong, the world is not peaceful. In the wake of globalization and the explosion in communication technologies, new security related threats have emerged that are to a great extent independent of national boundaries. As a result, a new kind of war is being waged in every country all over the world; this is because the primary threats to national security have changed fundamentally. They no longer spring from territorial and ideological disputes among nation states but from how far globalization, technological threats and criminal networks have grown to challenge nation states (Zalur & Zeckhauser 2002).

In Nigeria today, conflict seem persistent and intractable, moreover after a decade of complacency, we seem to be finally grasping the fact that we are fighting for survival under the shadow of catastrophic dangers. Hence, discussions on our National Security concept has evolved rapidly because the
security environment in which we live is dynamic and uncertain, replete with a host of threats and challenges which are trans-national in nature that have potential to grow more deadly (Pandya & Laipon, 2008:39).

Emerging scenario of these trans-national threats which are irrespective of national border and which comprises of a list of different risk factors that seem unending spanning from different trans-national crimes like terrorism, human and drug trafficking, money laundering etc, to widespread environmental degradation, diseases, climate change and even political policies which might threaten our nation’s sovereignty (Brainard & Halon, 2004), has further challenged the concept of national security which now pertains to people rather than territories on one hand and development rather than military on the other hand. Now, the notion of national security captures the traditional security and human security. National security is now perceived as total security – security of life and property, security of the economy and the economic resource areas of the country, security of food and raw materials resources, of general health of the people, of environment and national integrity, and preservation of all that society considers to be important and valuable (Imobighe, 2000). Globalization and increased technology has led to the decline of our borders which has led to the increased vulnerability of Nigeria to there threats and endanger our national security. The Nigeria – Benin border, which is located in the west of our country, is particularly notorious for all sorts of illegal trans-border activities. For this reason, this research work will attempt to discuss Human and drug trafficking, smuggling of goods and arms proliferation and the dangers they pose to our national security because these activities are the most common across the Nigeria – Benin border.

The dilemmas that Nigeria faces with insecurities call for critical investigation of border entry points whether they are performing their strategic functions (Willie, 2008). Today, there are thousands of Nigerians living in Benin and some number of Benineese living in Nigeria. However, Nigeria has over the years engaged in the deportation of some Benineese “illegal Aliens” back to their country and even engaged in the closure and reopening of her border with Benin on the ground of trying to protect her national security. The National Security of both countries have been constantly threatened by activities of some Nigerians, Beninese, and even citizens of other nationalities across the Seme Border involving the smuggling of petroleum products and other essential commodities like drugs, beverages etc, which constitute economic threat to Nigerian economy. Similarly, the dominance of substandard goods, fake drugs and prohibited items in our local markets call to question the very essence and effectiveness of government fiscal policies and the implementation process involving chains of security agencies at our national border. Nigeria, despite avalanches of insecurities must remain open to movement of people, goods and services if they are to prosper. At the same time, openness without credible controls makes it possible for emerging threats of transnational crimes including terrorism to strive (Willie, 2008).
Presently, Nigeria is awash with sophisticated arms and ammunitions and other weapons of mass destruction which can be used to fuel internal conflicts and armed robbery within our nation. Majority of illicit arms in circulation in Nigeria found their way into the country through borders, be it land, sea or air. Transnational organized crime syndicates that deal in the trafficking and proliferation of these arms, deal in drugs, smuggle commodities and human trafficking keep operation with impurity across the Nigeria – Benin republic boundary (Willie, 2008).

There are major factors responsible for the preponderance of transnational crime namely:

i. The development of global markets

ii. Advancement in technology, efficient communication and transport which have accelerated the movement of people, product, money and of course criminals

iii. The increased volume complexities of international transaction which help disguise criminal activities.

iv. The depressed economy of most developing countries like Benin and Nigeria which creates the conducive fertile ground for the gestation of crime networks and operation (Ngor Ngor: ND)

iv. Poor Governance leading to absence of border controls and corruption. The porosity of the Nigeria – Benin border has exposed our country to different transnational threats, which has devastating consequence for our national security. Transnational threats is a highly, destabilizing factor because it crates roots for the development of regional and global tension (Shelley, 1995). Transnational crimes can weaken or destabilize state, damaging their good governance and slowing their economic development. They also compete with legal economic system and promote corruption and undermine the authority of the state, therefore paving way for radicalization process that can lead to violent extremism and terrorism. The complexity and extent of transnational organized crime and the negative influence these criminals exert through the stupendous wealth that they acquire make it imperative for the cooperation Nigeria and Benin Republic to effectively combat these crimes across their border.

2. Objectives of the Study

The specific or the main objectives of carrying out this research work includes:

1. To examine the nature and dynamics of transnational threats.
2. To examine the peculiar transnational threats pronging the Nigeria – Benin border.

3. To explore the impacts of transnational threat to Nigeria’s national security.
4. To inform policy that will isolate Nigeria from transnational threats.

3. Research Hypothesis

A Hypothesis is a tentative generation, the validity of which remains to be tested. In its most elementary stage the hypothesis may be any hunch, guess, imaginative idea, which becomes basis for action or investigation. To achieve the desired objective, the research has the following declarative hypothesis to validate or invalidate at the end of the research.

1. Globalization trends increases incidence of transnational threats
2. The weakness of the state tends to engender transnational threats
3. Nigeria – Benin border security tends to be hampered by transnational threats
4. The higher the level of transnational threat the poorer the state of national security.

4. Scope and Limitations of the Study

This research will be limited to the major transnational crimes along the Nigeria – Benin border. They include smuggling and trafficking in arms and weapons, drugs, humans and goods such as cars and petroleum products. The study will analyze and examine these transnational threats and how they affect our national security. However in the course of this research, the researcher may exceed the boundary of his study as an instrument of explanation.

A study like this will have limitation such as time constraints, finances, mobility to acquire adequate materials and literature on the subject matter under study.

5. Review of the Literature

While the integrative imperativeness of globalization calls for borders to be increasingly porous without little or no barriers, the dark side of globalization has brought to the fore the need to fend off contrabands, criminals, illegal immigrants and terrorists. As the threat level increases, so also is the pressure and attention on border management. Borders must necessarily stop, interdict and examine people, conveyances and cargoes at points of entry or exit. Our border performs the dual role of a line that links as well as a line that separates (Willie, 2008). The two border towns which are Seme border in Lagos State and Idiroko border in Ogun State that connect Nigeria to Benin republic are of crucial concern due to the large state of trans-border activities between the two countries.
Benin is a country where animistic beliefs are widespread. (50% of the population is animistic) both Christian and Muslim groups have continued to practice animistic traditions and practices vary across the ethnic groups. The implication is that definitions of crime also vary just as much and forms of traditional justice in particular are different. (Chikwanha, 2007). Crime and unemployment figures are generally unavailable for this country, life expectancy is 52 years, one third of the population are illiterate and live below the poverty line. The high level of poverty and generally poor economic conditions are thus likely to contribute to high crime state level, 2006 in particular saw an increase in the sophistication of criminals in conducting surveillance of their victims especially in car jacking and organized crime (Ibid:3). The high level of these crimes and their transnational nature, including the high number of criminals involved which are both Nigerians, Beninese and even criminals of other nationalities make these threats not a problem for Benin republic alone but also any other country in the world. The criminal activities in Benin republic in one way or another threaten our national security and vice versa. Crimes such as Human trafficking, smuggling of weapons, drugs, goods and other contrabands across the Nigeria-Benin border has made border security a very crucial concern for Nigerians and Beninese alike. Good border management from the foregoing is an attempt to seek to balance the competing and not conflicting goals of collective security of facilitating access for people, goods and services that are desirable and needed with interdicting or stopping criminals that can cause insecurity in Nigeria and globally. The joint management of Seme border in South West Nigeria between Benin and Nigeria in terms of collective security arrangement under bilateral and ECOWAS initiatives is an attempt to efficiently manage the borders. Good border management as identified must systematically act as fitness, being able to accurately and efficiently identify high-risk people and cargoes, target them for inspection and reject same without hindrance to legitimate cross-border traffic. This to a large extent holds great potentials for policy makers and may form the solution to the elusive problem of insecurities in Nigeria (Willie, 2008).

5.1 Transnational Organised Crime across The Nigeria – Benin Border

Transnational organized crime suggests in simple terms the movement of persons, goods and services across sovereign national jurisdiction in a manner devoid of acceptable norms and standards. At the local level, the sophistry of organized groups can be described as rudimentary. However, with international linkages, the operational base of organized crime in Nigeria has widened beyond immediate frontiers which is a source of great concern to government. Most of these organized crime are made possible in Nigeria because of the porous and notorious Nigeria – Benin border (Ngor Ngor :ND).

The Nigerian government has mapped out policies and strategies to deal decisively with transnational crimes across the Nigeria-Benin border but the solution has constantly eluded us due to a number of reasons among which is the
level of corruption at the border and within the country. These threats has been perhaps most noticeable in regard to drug-traficking, humans, arms and other goods which are mostly cars and petroleum. (UNDOC, 2005).

While these operations might appear quite different there are frequently relationships and interdependence between most of them. Although terrorist and insurgent groups are politically motivated, they often provide armed protection to drug trafficking in exchange for money or arms. Conversely organized crime group and drug trafficking commit terrorist acts that target government agencies and personnel who attempt to bring them to justice, drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime encourage money laundering and makes possible the financing of non-governmental armed troops (Sheller 1995). These organized crime groups consist of complex clandestine, hierarchically organized networks and operate internationally with little regard for our borders. The gravity of the problem lies not only in the increasing complexity and number of their organization, but more importantly, with the serious challenge they pose in their ability to penetrate and operate with relative impunity in several states simultaneously. In the same vein, these illegal enterprises not only threaten aspects of state our country’s sovereignty and security that have traditionally been taken for granted, but they also prove the permeability of our national borders and vulnerability of state institutions.

5.2 Human Trafficking

The trafficking of children for the purpose of domestic service, prostitution and other forms of exploitative labour is a widespread phenomenon in Nigeria. In the view of the clandestine nature of trafficking, accurate and reliable figures are hard to get (UNICEF, 2007). It was the case beginning from the mid 1980’s that Nigeria experienced increased incidence of human trafficking especially women and children (Agbu, 2008). These trafficked persons are at risk of involving in domestic and forced labour, prostitution, entertainment, pornography, armed conflict and sometimes ritual killing (UNICEF, 2007).

For Nigeria, the situation was so bad that the then first lady, Titi Abubakar through her non-governmental organization – Women Trafficking and Child Education Foundation (WOTCLEF) took it upon herself to spearhead that would eventually become a serious fight against human trafficking in Nigeria. Utilizing all advantages desirable from the position, political legal and social, she was able to kick-stout a serious challenge to human trafficking and its corruption support case in the country (Agbu, 2003). In July 2003, the trafficking in persons prohibited and Administration Act was passed in Nigeria, a legislative framework that prohibits all forms of trafficking in person and protects children and adults against criminal networks (UNICEF, 2007). There are diverse reasons why many Nigerian Children are vulnerable to trafficking, including poverty, large family size, rapid urbanization with deteriorating public service, low literacy levels, high school drop out rates (UNICEF, 2007),
and to top it all up is the porous borders of Nigeria – Benin republic. The poor economic situation in Nigeria has led to unemployment and high rates of school drop outs.

These circumstances which are also present in Benin have created a large pool of inactive and unengaged children and adolescents who are much more vulnerable to trafficking than their peers who go to school. Nigeria is a centre of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children. It is an origin, transit and destination country for trafficking children and server predominantly as an origin country for trafficked women. These women and children are trafficked to different parts of West Africa, North America, Europe and Middle East from Nigeria mainly through the Seme Border. Benin also serves as a destination country for children trafficked for labour exploitation from Nigeria. Trafficked women trafficked from Nigeria are also forced into prostitution in Benin (Chinkwanha, 2007).

Foreign children trafficked to Nigeria come mainly from Benin and Togo (an estimated 96%, with 90% of that figure coming from Benin alone), Cote d’Ivoire and Niger. Children as young as five and six years trafficked from Benin have been found working in exploitive conditions in Nigeria mines in the Western part of the country. Trafficked girls are used for domestic services or street trading as well as commercial sexual exploitation while boys are generally forced to work on plantations or in commercial farming, construction, quarries and mines or engaged in petty crimes and drug trade (UNDOC, 2006). With respect to women trafficked to Europe for the purpose of sexual exploitation, an estimated 94% are from Edo State while the remaining are from Delta, Kano and Borno State.

5.3 Victimization by Traffickers

a. Trafficked people suffer physical assault and threats of violence of self and family and also psychological issues.

b. Illness and death. Many trafficked persons die en route as a result of dangerous track condition and become ill as a result of dangerous working condition

c. There is constant rape and harassment by police so that the officers could turn a blind eye to this act
d. There is threat of human to the trafficked person, friends and family if “debts owed are not paid or report will be made to authorities if the trafficked escaped or refused to work.

All the above violate the right to freedom, liberty, human dignity, adequate rest and leisure, nutrition, right to freedom of expression, movement nationality and identity, right to parental care and protection affecting children and development.

There is also Re-victimization by government through the following:


b. The officials treat trafficked persons as criminals e.g. there is public disclosure of person’s situation in passport, identity printed in newspaper and highlights in news.

c. They return to countries of origin quickly without regard to safety, access to justice on need for prosecution witness

d. Detained by police, not fed, and held in jails longer than necessary.

e. The government fails to ensure compensation for wages and suffering.

f. Fails to take adequate actions to protect family members from threats of harm or actual harm by traffickers (Olujwon, 2008).

The activities of women victims of trafficking especially those who go into prostitution either on their own or are forced to do so, has implications for their reproductive health and general health of Nigerians. Young Nigerians are alleged to be active participants in officially sanctioned prostitution in Benin, Italy and some other parts of the world. In other words, trafficking has consequence not only for the victim alone, but also for their families and the nations as whole, especially as women and little girls are involved in risk of pregnancy, maternal immortality, sexually transmitted disease and HIV/AIDS. Child prostitution and child labour deprive the children of the opportunity to pursue and achieve their full potentials, thereby depriving the nation of vital human resources for development. It also detracts our self esteem as a nation and devalues our pride and moral values (Olujwon, 2008). Not withstanding the socio-economic consequences of prostitution, to our country, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for Benin and some other destination countries which young Nigerian girls are trafficked to expose them to higher risk of contacting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease that has serious repercussions on their reproductive health. It is estimated that, to date, about two-third of the reported AIDS cases have been females usually between the ages of 15 and 49 years who incidentally forms part of the segment of the women population who often migrate or are trafficked. It will be right to now say that the increase
in the trafficking of women from Nigeria to other countries and also the trafficking to young girls from other countries to Nigeria via the Nigeria – Benin border has to a large extent contributed to increase in the HIV prevalence due to the mobility of infected women victims of trafficking (Taylor, 2002).

Trafficking of humans, particularly in women has negative cost implications on the economy of home country of the trafficked. Victims of trafficking are normally of low employable skills on account of their relatively lower education levels. Most of them are also trafficked on fake travel documents and hence occasionally get apprehended by the law enforcement agencies of the destination countries leading to their forced repatriation, the cost of which is borne by their home government. Most often, the evacuated migrants are not well oriented and rehabilitated to properly integrate them into the society. As a result, some returned migrants see their perceived new environment as an opportunity to put into practice some of the negative socio-cultural practices learnt abroad that are diametrically opposed to the socio-cultural settings of the Nigeria society. Victims of trafficking sometimes resort to desperate behaviours when they fail to reach their destination. Victims of trafficking in those situations become stranded and despondent and resort to all sorts of socio-economic activities including prostitution, illegal drug peddling and burglary. In some instances traffickers use their victims as carriers of illegal drug across our borders. Trafficking in women and children has also negative socio-political implication for both origin and host continues especially where many of the women and children are let lose to practice prostitution in the open in the host country. Apart from putting a derogatory tag on the Nigeria womanhood, it also increases pressure of the host government to take appropriate action to remove the offensive behaviour.

5.4 Trafficking and Smuggling in Drugs

The problem with drug trafficking is probably among the most alarming problems in transnational crime (Muna, 2002). Nigeria is neither a producer nor consumer nation in the illicit drug trade but serves as a major transit route. Of all transnational criminal activities prevalent in Nigeria, the drug trade has brought the country much more woes and international pariah status than any other has. Drug trafficking came to official prominence from 1983-1984 in Nigeria, following public execution of some convicted drug traffickers (Ngor Ngor: ND).

Nigerian Traffickers operate with impunity in Benin so also Beninese in Nigeria through the Nigeria – Benin border. Traffickers use legitimate business to camouflage drug operation. Proceeds are often invested in property (Real Estate) and this enables them to launder illicit profits (Barbara, 2007). In Nigeria, which is the most populous country in Africa and one of its dominant economic players and where there is significant problem of organized crime, the police and other agencies appear to have only limited capacity to
analyze the structures of organized crime, tending to regard all those whom they apprehend as individuals, the problem with drugs shows that actors both supplier and users are internationally linked (Muna, 2002).

According to almost all accounts drug trafficking was pioneered in the region of West Africa by Nigerians. Soon joined by others, and police force in Ghana and Sierra Leone both allege that drug trafficking was introduced into their countries largely by Nigerians criminals seeking new operating locations. But although international drug trading in West Africa appears to have been pioneered by Nigerians and by all accounts Nigerian entrepreneurs now play a major role in the international drug trade, every country in West Africa has the capacity to become a transit zone used by criminals of any nationality (UNDOC, 2008). For example, most persons with Nigerian International passports that are arrested, prosecuted and convicted in connection with drug trafficking are couriers working for drug barons in other countries (Ngor Ngor: ND), and although it is pointed out that Nigeria is by far the most populous country in West Africa, and indeed the whole of Africa, and that it is therefore to be expected that the country will produce greater number of criminals than its neighbours, It is still important to point out that criminals of other nationalities including Beninese may sometimes find it convenient to pass themselves off as Nigerians. But even if one were to make allowance for doubts over the true nationality of some couriers bearing Nigerian passport, there is overwhelming evidence to support the view that drug trade remains one of the specialties of Nigerian criminal group – of couriers intercepted with drug transmitting through West Africa, according to statistics compiled since 2000-2005, 92 percent were West Africans and no less than 56% were Nigerians (UNDOC, 2005). A striking tendency in Nigeria is its continuous emerging role as a zone of transit. Just within West Africa Drugs are trafficked from Ghana through Togo, Benin cutting across the Nigeria-Benin border into Nigeria to Southern Africa.

The couriers are mostly youths within the age bracket of 18-40 years. The methods of peddling in drugs varied from simple concealment in personal effects, lining of clothing, animals, concealment in women’s reproductive organ (Vagina), designed as talcum powder, packaged in small moulded balls and swallowed, engraved in cultural artefacts to so many ingenious unimaginable methods. The drugs are transported across the Nigeria – Benin Border by land, air or sea. The Nigerian government established the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDIEA) to fight the upsurge in drug trafficking. Added to this, is the promulgation of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act. The act seeks to enforce laws against the cultivation, processing, sale, trafficking and use of hard drugs and to empower the Agency to investigate persons suspected to have dealings in drugs and other related matters. The NDLEA with the cooperation of other international agencies has relatively fought the war against drug trafficking but the porous border of Nigeria – Benin has limited the effects which the Agency must have made (Agbu, 2008).
Drug trafficking has both social and economic cost for Nigeria. In Nigeria, drug trafficking helps in worsening off or raiding helpless skewed income distribution. The traffickers are rich people whereas the non traffickers are not. Also the manner in which the drug traffickers in Nigeria spend their money also has social implications. They spend their money recklessly before the poor masses; a consequent manifestation is that those without such access will express their anger and ill feelings in the act of crime of delinquency (Jaja, 1990).

Drugs also constitute a big damage to health. The transiting of drugs through any given country means that some of it inevitably stays there, either as payment of services renders or as a source of profit for the traffickers, these drugs are thus consumed locally with the dire effects on consumers that we all know. Addiction sets in and the afflicted persons become a huge burden in all respects. They will steal to feed their habit, resell drugs at extremely low prices to earn their fix, thus contaminating their surroundings. They will use violence if necessary to obtain cash, or simply because they become frustrated and angry. A cycle of dependency, distress, poverty and crime sets. It becomes a major internal security and National Security Issue (Shehu, 2009).

The influx of drug and other dirty or unsafe money has also put the economy and the banking system under great pressure because although it might build its net worth, it puts the bank at risk of prosecution or worse if monies are withdrawn too fast. Legal system becomes over burdened, prisons fill up, resource offering help and rehab are insufficient or not up to par, and the whole attitude of fear in society seeks retribution and punishment rather than rehabilitation and reintegration. Government officials are corrupted at the same time and can cause serious violence to those who pose threat to their lucrative business, police forces become unable to cope and the list goes on and on. At the end if this threat is not properly handled could cripple every institution of our economy and leading to grave national insecurity (IBID).

5.5 Trafficking and Proliferation of Arms and Weapons

It is now accepted that sustainable development is seriously threatened by recurrent violent armed conflict. The constant supply of smuggled arms into the country especially through the porous Nigeria – Benin border is a major cause for concern because of its disastrous effect on our national security. Most arms trafficked into the country are used in internal conflicts, armed robbery and drug trafficking and therefore creating a continuous cycle of violence and instability in which particularly women and children are brutalized. Small arms and light weapons proliferation in Nigeria is due not only to its strained economic and social situation, but also to the high rate of trafficking and smuggling of SALW into the country. The high rate of criminality, the development of secret cults, the emergence of private security and the electoral and political violence demonstrates as well as feed the culture of violence, which is strongly related to SALW. It is worth noting that Nigeria produces SALW. The Defence industries corporation of Nigeria (DICON) is the only legal manufacturer in Nigeria. It produces rifles, pistols, ammunition, but there are
mainly used by the Nigeria Police, and do not represent a significant source of proliferation (Agekameh, 2002).

Oil company funds are a considerable source of weapons in Nigeria. Weapons bought with oil funds are provided in return for illegal bunkered or stolen oil, or to supporters within the oil industry. The oil industry also creates opportunity for protection from private security actors. Oil producing companies, increasingly finding the state provision of security inadequate use service of armed groups. These groups use oil company funds to buy weapons, which overtime, enables them to expand the outreach of their activities across other communities and across state boundaries. Another important source of weapon is the distribution of arms by political parties for the coercion and intimidation of opponents and the electorate at election times. A significant number of weapons enter Nigeria from neighbouring West African States like Sierra Leone and Liberia through the Nigeria – Benin border aided by dealers and members of the Nigerian Military who extend their military positions into these neighbouring states to collect weapons and ship them to Nigeria for resale. As a result of inadequate resources and expertise to effectively patrol and manage the Nigeria – Benin border which is about 1000 kilometres, it has been made a major route used to smuggle arms into the country.

SALW have been used to grossly violate human rights, to facilitate the practice of bad governance, to subvert constitution to carryout coup de tat and to create and maintain a general state of fear, insecurity and instability. The true magnitudes of the problems caused by SALW proliferation in Nigeria cannot be accurately quantified, as so many of the effects are hard to measure – such as fear and want. However, there is no dispute that small arms have had a devastating effect on development governance and everyday life of Nigerians as such posed huge threat to our national security (Keili, 2002). The uncontrolled movement of SALW has exacerbated conflicts and brought destruction, untold hardship, poverty and contributed to underdevelopment in Nigeria. The widespread availability of small arms to abusive actors poses a threat of unprecedented magnitude to Nigeria far greater than that of HIV/AIDS in terms of its socio-economic and human consequences. Because of this proliferation, the fabric of the country itself is rapidly changing moving toward self-destruction. This can be observed in three different areas:

1. The easy availability and use of SALW is leading to tragic consequences, not only for combatants but also for civilian, who form the majority of causalities – people are losing their lives, their health, families, homes and livelihoods.
2. The growing illegal character of the flow of SALW in Nigeria is transforming the bulk of arms transfers from a legal, accountable trade to what is better described as trafficking. What is perhaps most amazing is the number of state and non-state actors involved in the network of illegal transfer of light weaponry: and
3. The most significant and far reaching consequence of SALW proliferation, beyond the huge economic cost and social crisis, is the effect in cultural values. In different instances, customs have arrested groups of Nigerian arm traffickers near the border. The Nigerian custom service also reported the interception of small arms and ammunition worth more than 4.3 billion naira ($34.1 million) on their way into the country in the first 6 months of 2002. A lot has come through the border with Benin and was being brought into Nigeria over land or by sea-in small boats.

During conflict, the structures of SALW circulation have integrated into economic structures. SALW have an economic value to the fighters that receive them. They enable combatants to engage in predatory violence against civilian populations, stealing goods to sell to the local black market which is the easily accessible illicit medium of transaction, for personal sustenance and enrichment. Small arms, especially firearms, are the primary tools used to kill, threaten, and intimidate civilian population in Nigeria. Small arms play a significant role in many abuses, including rape, enforced disappearances, torture, forced displacement and enforced recruitment of child soldiers.

Delta State has seen conflict since 2003 involving well-armed military groups (so also Jos) motivated in part by economic interest in stolen crude oil. These groups use a range of sophisticated weapons, such as Semi and full automatic rifles, alongside more traditional weapons to carry out deadly and paralyzing attacks on oil and gas installations. SALW proliferation also fuels the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as oil, diamonds, timber, coffee. Most victims of small arms violence in Nigeria are young men, who have the highest earning potential. The presence of these small arms creates an atmosphere of fear that affects the resumption of normal economic activity and everyday life which are all elements of national security. Over the last decade, the links between SALW proliferation, conflict, security and development have become better recognized and understood within Nigeria especially in the region of Delta state and Jos. It is now accepted that sustainable development is seriously threatened by recurrent violent armed conflict (Takirambudde, 2003).

However, Krause asserted that although the availability and use of more sophisticated weapons has contributed to the erosion of state authority, it is clear that the proliferation of arms is in part a respond to demand for personal security when normative social relations collapse or are seen to be on the brink of collapse. In other words the proliferation is rooted in inept structural forms which create or sustain human security in its broad sense (Jekada, 2005).
5.6 Smuggling in other Commodities

The smuggling of other commodities such as oil and cars have been constantly reported across the Nigeria-Benin border. Just this year alone, 380 cars stolen in Nigeria have been traced to Benin Republic which had the suspects released. Oil bunkering in Nigeria has also continued to occur at an alarming rate due to the easy smuggling of the stolen oil via the Seme border. According to the Federal Government, some 300,000 barrels are illegally exported per day with the Nigeria-Benin border acting as a major transit zone.

Efforts have been made to reduce smuggling activities to its minimum at Seme border due to its economic consequence which is a vital part of our national security. Between last year and January 2010, Nigeria custom Service (NICS), Badagry Area Command says it made a massive seizure. The head of the command, comptroller Aliu Barbrick Toba, put the value of goods seized at N573.3 million. Among the seizure were (Tokunbo) vehicles, bags of rice, wines, textile material and vegetable oil as well as pharmaceutical products topping the list of the seizures. The mode of concealment equally was amazing as some of these goods were concealed in a manner that ordinarily will not give an inkling of suspicion.

The command according to Aliu recorded huge revenue of N3.8billion in 2009 as against N3.5 billion recorded in 2008. He also disclosed that his command recorded N443.6 million as revenue in January this year as against 238.6 million in January 2009, a comparative difference of N204.9 million. Smuggling is like a cankerworm that does no good.

The nature of our wide expansive border and coastland with the attendant difficulty of covering it because of limited resources has aided in both the smuggling out and smuggling in of different goods. Similarly the dominance of substandard goods, fake drugs and prohibited items in our local markets also has serious health implications for the people of the Nigerian Federation.

5.7 National Security

Generally, security has to do with freedom from danger, or with threats to a nation’s stability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people (Imobighe: ND). The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 9 Sections 214 and 217 provides for the establishment and maintenance of an army, navy, air force and other security agencies that may be necessary for the purpose of:
i. Defending Nigeria from external aggression.

ii. Maintaining territorial integrity and securing one borders from violation on land, sea and air.

iii. Suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order, when called upon.

iv. Performing such other functions as may be prescribed (such as undertaking relief or welfare duties in such cases as national disasters, peace keeping etc).

There are clearly national objectives or goals. The means to goal attainment can only be feasible if the strategies are right and dynamic. Where the resources are limited and ineffectively distributed, discontent and conflict may take centre stage, because the problem of poverty, disease, which are internal security threats, must be contained before regional or global problems (Willie, 2008).

Security in whatever form is a standard measurement of the viability of any state or nation. A state of insecurity means red alert and that a risk factor have been identified which must be contained. This largely may involve military and non-military. All nations have the right under international law to secure its territorial space and protect its citizens from any imminent attack. National security once meant military power, but right now apart from military dimension to security, national security can be explained as the public policy of maintaining integrity and survival of the nation state through the use of other means like economic, religious, political, technology or the exercise of other diplomatic initiatives either in times of peace or war. This thinking informed Nwolise to postulate that: A country may have the best armed forces in terms of training and equipment, the most efficient police force, the most efficient custom men, the most active secrete service agents and best quality prisons, but yet be the most insecure nation in the world as a result of defence and security problems with governments, alienated and sufferings masses, ignorance, hunger, unemployment or even activities of foreign residents or companies.

The above scenario is not different from what is currently experienced with security assessment of Nigeria. Even the USA with enormous resources is greatly troubled by activities of forced migrants, talk less of Nigeria. Even if internal security problems are minimal in Nigeria, which obviously is not, the fact that her immediate neighbours like Benin are weak states vulnerable to crisis and conflicts, food shortages diseases or proliferation of small arms and light regions means that Nigeria may be unsafe except the security is beefed up.
The new thinking about national security and emerging transnational challenges gained further prominence with MC Namara (1999) who is also of the opinion that: Any society that seeks to achieve adequate military security against the background of acute food shortages, population explosion, low level of productivity and per capital income, low technological development, inadequate and inefficient public utilities and chronic problems of unemployment has a false sense of security. Mc Namara was absolutely right in arguing that the security of any nation cannot be primarily restricted to its military preparedness, but also in developing relative stable patterns of economic and political growth internally and globally.

National security is the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from internal and external threats. This for all practical purpose includes securing the individual against want, poverty, disease, loss of income and other health hazards. There must be national preservation and equilibrium in the economic, social, political and environmental spheres. Security, is normally a priority of every nation, this is very important in the sense that, it affects not only the satisfaction of needs of the inhabitants, but all things being equal and more importantly, is the fundamental issues of the national survival as a viable entity. Thus, it is only under a secured atmosphere that a state can develop, and direct its human and material resources towards a productive end (Willie, 2008).

In Nigeria today, governments, military and police forces; and other agencies responsible for various aspects of national security have little choice but to rethink security as it applies to the various transnational threats mostly organized crimes plunging us through the Nigeria-Benin border and other borders alike that political and military leaders have tended to ignore or wish away. These transnational crimes challenge our national security stability and sovereignty and might attempt either to control or depose governments. In this context, it must be remembered that crime, violence and instability are only symptoms of these threats. The ultimate threat is either that of state failure or violent imposition of a radical socio-economic-political restructuring of the state and its governance (Manwaring, 2008).

5.8 Curtailing Trans-border Crimes through Proper Management of Nigeria-Benin Border

Management as a concept has constantly changed over the years. To some people, management is an art, while others view it as science. Whatever it connotes, is not contestable here, but of relevance is the fact that management is a process used to accomplish organizational goals. Whatever an organization wants to accomplish can only done through and under management. An organization can be a business, profit or non profit agency, a school, community groups or security outfit. In the case of classical security border, mandatory tasks use assignment to specialized agencies like Armed Forces, Immigration, customs, police, state
security service, plant and animal quarantine service and others (Willie, 2008). Organizing is the development of resources to achieve strategic goals. This deployment is reflected in:

i. The organization’s division of labour that forms jobs and departments.

ii. Formal lines of authorities and;

iii. The mechanism used in coordinating diverse jobs and roles in organization.

It is very important to note that organizing follows a deliberate part of strategy. Why strategy indicates what needs to be done, organizing shows how to do it. Organization’s structure is a formal system of relationships that determines lines of authority and tasks assigned to individuals and units. There is a vertical dimension of this structure which indicates who has the authority to make decisions and who is expected to supervise which subordinate. The horizontal dimension is the basis of dividing work into specific job specializations and tasks or assigning jobs into such units and departments. The horizontal dimension of the structure of the security set up of the border does not have operational problems with whose job it is to deter the entry of drugs as with National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), human trafficking as with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) or smuggling being the constitutional responsibility of the customs. The real problem of border management and collective security at the Nigeria-Benin border has to do with the vertical dimension, where no single agency has the authority to make decisions for public good or as to efficient and effective management of the security border. Too many agencies with duplicated and overlapping functions operate at the Seme border pursing diverse and sometimes conflicting goals without unity of command. The joint Nigeria – Benin border patrol operates with at least two commanders and non subordinate to each other.

Furthermore, the concept of unity of command that a subordinate should have only one direct supervisor is missing among multiple security agencies that man Seme border. Though cohesion and unity of command operates as internal mechanism within specific agencies like the police, customs, immigration and others, harmony of overall national objectives continue to remain elusive in attempts at joint management of the security border, for no one agency is willing to subordinate its authority to another. Therefore the span of control is lost, thus tasking the overall goal objective which is peace and security. The management of the border facilitates is grossly inadequate due to lack of vertical dimension to the organizational structures. Common cliché’s you hear from sidelines on approaching the security border that further confirm the struggle for span of control are “custom controlled areas” for customs, “gatekeepers” for immigration, “security zones” for police and army or simply “baggage”, used commonly by all. There are currently about two functional and
jointly managed international borders between Nigeria and Benin. The Seme border is on Benin Republic territory, while idiroko is on Nigeria territory. The Seme border present challenges in terms of policing due to complex arrangements in which the Beninese authorities are resistant to joint sharing of facilities. Nigeria security checks and clearance are conducted on Benin territory, and further subjected to counter checks and further clearance by Benin security agencies, before crossing to Nigeria side. Due largely to linguistic differences and disconnect between Anglophone Nigeria and Francophone Benin, the sharing of vital information between the two countries are minimal. Benin has continued to be a nation hospitable to transnational crime networks and the database on activities of criminals are not shared by two nations.

To be an effective and efficient manager, it is imperative to be multi-skilled. This has become obvious with globalization and the dynamics of ever changing technology. New and emerging management focuses include communication skills, human skills, computer skills, time management skills and technical skills. Most, if not all are lacking in management approaches adopted by security agencies in policing our vast and porous borders.

5.9 Corruption and Transnational Threats

The interface between crime and politics, or crime and legitimate business, straddles the grey area of corruption. Corruption is often hidden, or at least is not openly admitted by its perpetrators and is rarely proven to a legal standard in a court of law.

Corruption in Nigeria has eaten into the very fabric of our society rendering most institutions fragile leading to both the attraction and fueling of a wide range of transnational threats. Corruption causes instability and creates roots for criminal organization and activities. Reasons why parts of the globe attract criminal activities include the lack of functioning criminal justice system, some of which are highly vulnerable to corruption, coupled with general lack of state capacity to control borders and their institutions, in which Nigeria is not an exception. The same set of institutional weakness leaves our state vulnerable to a wide range of transnational illicit activity and much has been written and said about the linkages among these activities.

A new thinking is needed to help our country fight corruption because the word in every sense comprises the future of any country. In the case of poor and vulnerable states, it is even more damaging. Suffice to say that the loss of home grown values, the lack of formal education, the angry and violent attitude of young males and some females, the reign of the “almighty dollar” as a source of pride or power, the often compromised law enforcement bodies, the waste and the loss of funds for direct and indirect investment in the country particularly in education are all sad results of the disruption of social fabric due to trafficking and leadership, and an indication of serious lack of maturity among members of any society (Shehu, 2009). Most top government official are solely responsible for the trafficking of arms and weapons into the country and the
high level of corruption at these borders only makes things worst. It is well known that state customs officials labour heavily to be moved to the border where it is easy to ignore state rules on clearing goods (Chikwanha, 2008).

6. Study Locale

The border will continue to be a dynamic concept in security studies. This assertion is inform by the fact that traditionally security has been conceptualized from the view point of a nation state delimited having a fixed boundary, sovereignty and independence.

Nigeria shares a 773 kilometre boundary with the republic of Benin in the west and this boundary has been a major source pf conflict as a result of continuous trans-border criminal activities. There are currently about two functional and jointly managed international borders between Nigeria and Benin. The Seme border is on Benin republic territory, while Idiroko is on Nigeria Territory. Seme however arrest special attention being probably the busiest and most mercurial of all border post in West Africa. The Seme border present challenges in term of policing due to complex management in which Beninese authorities are resistant to joint sharing of facilities.

For years cars stolen in Nigeria have turned up on sale in Benin and large quantities of cheap Nigerian petrol have been smuggled across the border. At the same time human trafficking have become rife in both directions. Nigeria seeking clandestine entry into Europe often leave via Benin, while West African children recruited to work for low wages on plantation in central Africa are dispatched in the opposite direction. These activities led Nigeria to close its western border withy Benin on the 10th of August 2003 and said the border would remain closed till Beninese government took tougher action against smuggling across the border. Although this move may have contravened its treaty obligation as a member of the ECOWAS whose fifteen member countries have pledged the free movement of people and goods, the country claims that it was only taking necessary precautions to protect its national security.

Today there is still growing concern on the border due to multiplicity of checkpoints along the mile 2-Seme expressway. There are supposedly only three approved customs checkpoint on the route from Lagos to Seme but in practice, there are over 30 checkpoints mounted by various security agencies. Even at that transnational crimes persist at an alarming rate.

7. Research Design

Research design provides the glue that holds the research work together. The survey research design was selected for the purpose of this study. Survey can be divided into two broad categories, that is questionnaire and
interview. This design was appropriate for the study because it enabled the researcher to collect data in form of writing and spoken language. This allowed the researcher to study selected issues in depth, openness and detail.

7.1 Population of the Study

The target population of the study comprises of the different Security agencies manning the Nigeria-Benin border. They include representatives from the Nigerian customs service, the Nigerian immigration service, national agency for food drug administration and control, national veterinary quarantine service, the state security service, Nigerian police force, Nigerian army, national drug law enforcement agency, national agency for the prohibition of traffic in persons, and top officials at the ECOWAS building at the border.

7.2 Sampling and Sampling Procedure

Specimen sample means the manageable population which the researcher can utilize effectively in the administration of questionnaire and interview. This specimen sample technically known a research population enables the researcher to carry out correct and accurate analysis of data.

The total population of security agent at the border cannot be adequately relied upon due to their large number. In this regard the researcher used random sampling to select two hundred respondents to constitute the sample size. The researcher distributed twenty questionnaires to different security agencies at the border and also distributed another twenty to top officials at the ECOWAS building at the border.

Random sampling made it possible for all persons within the scope of study to have equal chances of being selected for the study and also ensure meaningful generalization from the research.

7.3 Research Instrument

The instrument for data collection is a questionnaire. This questionnaire is the liker type of four point scale. The response are strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD). Corresponding to each of the structured questionnaire items were responded to by ticking one option of choice by each respondent. Mark are allotted to each response ranging from 4 to 1 (for SA and SD). In all there are 17 item in the questionnaire including the part here correspondent supply their bio-data.
7.4 Data Sources

Data collection deal with all the activities the researcher followed in gathering all the possible information required for the research. Two sources of data were used for the research. They are the primary source and the secondary source. The primary source include field visit or survey of the research environment, interview of selected person and administration of questionnaire the secondary sources include data from the internet, books, library, journals, newspapers, published and unpublished works.

7.5 Methods

The simple percentage was used to analyse the bio-social section of the questionnaire, while regression analysis was employed to test the hypotheses of the work.

7.6 Analysis and Results

This section of the work contains the bio-data of the respondents presented in simple percentages. It also estimates the data generated from questionnaire and used the data to test the various hypotheses. The regression analysis, specifically the ordinary least squares was used for analysis as shown below.

7.7 Gender

Table 1  Sex composition table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.7.1 Age

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 and above</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# International Security Journal

**Number 1 Issue 1**

**7.7.2 Agency**

## Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIS</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPF</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDLEA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCS</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAFDAC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSS</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAQS</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPTIP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 7.7.3 Education

## Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUALIFICATION</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASSC</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEGREE</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 7.7.4 Years of Service

## Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. OF YEARS</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 and above</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 8. TEST OF HYPOTHESES USING ANALYSIS OF REGRESSION RESULTS
The following results were analyzed in order to properly access transitional threats and national security using the Nigerian – Benin border as a case study.

8.1 HYPOTHESIS 1

H₀ There is no significant relationship between globalization and the incidence of trans-national threat.

H₁ there is a significant relationship between globalization and the incidence of trans-national threat.

Table 6:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable :</th>
<th>Trans-national threat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Method:</td>
<td>least squares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>09/17/10 Time: 10:18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample:</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included observations:</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>T-static</th>
<th>Prob.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLOBALIZATION C</td>
<td>0.204966</td>
<td>0.027583</td>
<td>7.430948</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
<td>140267.2</td>
<td>118852.0</td>
<td>1.180183</td>
<td>0.2455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted R-squared</td>
<td>0.598781</td>
<td>Mean dependent var.</td>
<td>564527.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E of regression</td>
<td>650982.8</td>
<td>Akaike info criterion</td>
<td>29.66027</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum squared resid</td>
<td>1.57E+13</td>
<td>Schwarz criterion</td>
<td>29.74559</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log likelihood</td>
<td>-576.3754</td>
<td>F-statistic</td>
<td>55.21898</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durbin-Watson stat</td>
<td>1.799206</td>
<td>Prob. ( F-static)</td>
<td>0.000000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2.1 SIGN/MAGNITUDE

The result showed globalization has a positive relationship with the incidence of trans-national threat, that is an increase in globalization by 10 % will increase trans-national threat by 20%, all things being equal.

$R^2/R^2$

The $R^2$ is the coefficient of determination and the goodness of fit test. The $R^2$ suggest that 60 percent of the total change in trans-national threat has been explained by globalization. The unexplained variation is just 40 percent (1-0.60). The $R^2$ is the adjusted $R^2$ for
degrees of freedom and it suggests that 59 percent of the variation in the level of trans-national threat has now been caused by globalization.

8.2.3 F test and the test of hypothesis

The F test is used to test the overall hypothesis. The f test with a value of (55.21896) and probability of (0.0000) suggests a rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between globalization and the incidence of trans-national threats.

8.2.4 T test and test for hypothesis

The T test is used to test the statistical significance of each independent variable in explaining the dependent variable. The t test with a value of 7.430948 and the probability of (0.0000) suggest that globalization is statistically significant in explaining the changes in the level of trans-national threat. Thus, rejecting the null and accepting the alternative hypothesis.

8.2.5 DW test

The DW test is used to test for the presence or absence of first order serial correlation. The DW test with a value of (1.799206) did not show strong support for first order serial correlation in the model.

8.3 HYPOTHESIS II

Ho: The weakness of the state does not engender trans-national threat.

Hi: The weakness of the state engenders trans-national threat.

Table 7:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>t-Statistic</th>
<th>Prob.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE WEAKNESS</td>
<td>0.167954</td>
<td>0.040461</td>
<td>1.398378</td>
<td>0.0002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>222312.7</td>
<td>158979.0</td>
<td>4.151001</td>
<td>0.1703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-squared</td>
<td>0.531773</td>
<td>Mean dependent var</td>
<td>564527.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted R- square</td>
<td>0.529929</td>
<td>S.D. dependent var</td>
<td>1014117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.E. of regression</td>
<td>848900.1</td>
<td>Akaike info criterion</td>
<td>30.19119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum squared resid</td>
<td>2.67E+13</td>
<td>Schwarz criterion</td>
<td>30.27650</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log likelihood</td>
<td>-586.7282</td>
<td>F-statistic</td>
<td>17.23081</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durbin-Watson stat</td>
<td>1.975775</td>
<td>Prob. (F-statistic)</td>
<td>0.000186</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8.4.1 SIGN/MAGNITUDE
The result showed that the weakness of the state has a positive linear relationship with the level of trans-national threat. Thus an increase in the weakness of the state by 10 percent will increase the trans-national threat level by 17 percent.

### 8.4.2 F test and the test of hypothesis
The F test with a value of (17.23081) and probability of (0.000186) suggests a rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis that the weakness of the state engenders trans-national threat.

### 8.4.3 T test and test for hypothesis
The T test a value of (4.151001) and probability of (0.0002) suggests that state weakness is statistically significant in explaining trans-national threat. This suggests a rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis.

### 8.4.4 DW test
The DW test with value of (1.975775) did not did not show strong support for first order serial correlation in the model.

### 8.5 HYPOTHESIS III
Ho: Nigeria-Benin border security tends not to be hampered by trans-national threat.
Hi: Nigeria-Benin border security tends to be hampered by trans-national threat.

**Table 8:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>std. Error</th>
<th>t-Statistic</th>
<th>Prob.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BORDERSECURITY</td>
<td>-0.055186</td>
<td>0.009033</td>
<td>-6.109613</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>388246.4</td>
<td>119642.1</td>
<td>3.245064</td>
<td>0.0025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R-squared 0.650220
Adjusted R-square 0.648574
S.E. of regression 725112.3
Sum squared resid 1.95E+13
Log likelihood - 530.5812
Durbin-Watson stat 1.907614

**8.5.1 SIGN/MAGNITUDE**

The result showed that the border security has a negative relationship with the level of trans-national threat. The result is that an increase in the level of border security will reduce the level of trans-national threats.

**8.5.2 R²/R²**
The $R^2$ suggests that 65 percent of the total changes in the level trans-national threat have been explained by the level of border security. The unexplained variation is just 35 percent (1-0.65). The $R^2$ suggests that 65 percent of total changes in the level of transnational threat have been explained by the Nigeria – Benin Border security.

### 8.5.3 F test and the test of hypothesis

The F test with a value of (37.32737) and probability of (0.0000) suggests the rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis that the Nigeria – Benin Border security tends to be hampered by trans-national threat.

### 8.5.4 T test and test for hypothesis

The T test a value of (-6.10913) and probability of (0.0000) suggests that border security is statistically significant in explaining the change in the trans-national threat. This suggests a rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis.

### 8.5.5 DW test

The Durbin Watson (DW) test with value of (1.907614) did not show significant support for the presence of first order serial correlation.

### 8.6 HYPOTHESIS IV

Ho: The level of trans-national threat has no significant impact on the level of national security.

Hi: The level of trans-national threat has a significant impact on the level of national security.

### Table 9:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
<th>t-Statistic</th>
<th>Prob.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NATIONALSECURITY</td>
<td>-4.034345</td>
<td>0.5967S9</td>
<td>-6.760091</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-422990.1</td>
<td>182911.2</td>
<td>-2.312543</td>
<td>0.0264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependent Variable: TRANSNATIONALTHREAT
Method: Least Squares
Date: 09/1 7/10  Time: 10:25
Sample: 200
Included observations: 200
8.6.1 $R^2$ /$R^2$

The $R^2$ suggests that 55 percent of the changes in trans-national threats have been explained by the changes in the national security level. The unexplained variation is 45 percent (1-0.55). The $R^2$ suggests that 54 percent of the changes in trans-national threats have been explained by changes in national security.

8.6.2 F test and the test of hypothesis

The F test with a value of (45.69884) and probability of (0.0000) suggests a rejection of the null hypothesis and an acceptance of the alternative hypothesis that the level of trans-national threats has a significant impact on the level of national security.

8.6.3 T test and test for hypothesis

The DW test a value of (1.578771) did not did not show strong support for first order serial correlation.

9. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The findings of this research work from the sources of data collected indicated that trans-national threats are very prominent in our country and is occurring at an alarming rate with disastrous consequences on our social, economic, political sector and in general our national security.
The research also discovered that globalization is a major driving force of trans-national threat and a major driving force of trans-national threat in that a 10 percent increase in the rate of globalization will increase trans-national threats by 20 percent.

Another interesting aspect of the result suggested that corruption within the country and at the border also increases trans-national threats. The absence of highly trained security agents at the border compounds the problems of insecurity, also the security of the border is further hampered by the present threats but an increase in the effectiveness and efficiency of the border security in turn reduces these threats. Furthermore an increase in the weakness of the state by 10 percent will in turn increase the degree of trans-national threats by approximately 17 percent.

10. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The result made some important revelations contrary to the view that globalization has a tendency of reducing trans-national threats; the results showed that globalization has the tendency of increasing trans-national threats. According to the result, an increase in the pace of globalization by 10 percent will increase trans-national threat by 20 percent. The study also suggests that a weak state is prone to all sorts of trans-national criminal activities or threats; this is because the high level of social vices within its custody destabilizes the states more. Another interesting aspect of the result is that when there is high border security, trans-national threats is reduced. The result showed that an increase in the level of border security by a unit will decrease trans-national threat by 0.6 percent. The result also showed that an increase in national security has the tendency of reducing trans-national threat. In other words, a good national security is a good sign for trans-national and global peace.

11. SUMMARY

This work is centred on an in-depth examination and analysis of trans-national threats and the consequences of these threats to our country’s national security, using a case study of the Nigeria-Benin border.

It also describes globalization and technological advancements not only as agents of positive change but also as the major forces contributing to the occurrence to trans-national threats as a result of their ability to diminish state borders. The networking which now exist between most criminal organizations in the world are now much stronger than ever known in the past as a resulting effect of technological advancements. The research work also identifies the different ills associated with these threats, their impact on individual and national level, goes further to stress on the need and ways for providing the state with adequate border security control or management so as to fend off all manners of smuggling and illegal migration which at the end will have catastrophic consequences for our national security.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Generally speaking border, territory, identity and human security are the corner stone of national security. The defence and security of Nigeria has done much with our borders.
When the border fails to perform its required functions as barriers it creates space for different crimes to find their way into the country and disrupt our national security. Criminal organizations and gangs constantly device new strategies at a rate which law enforcement agencies are not able to meet up to with addition to globalization and ECOWAS protocols on free movement of anything or person, goods and services, the border has become a line on a map highly abused all round the clock.

A strategy to gain operational control of Nigeria’s vast and porous borders should focus on building means to constrain illegal and unauthorized crossing at points of entry and exits. Such measures must be able to interdict smuggling over land, sea and air. These strategies must entail strong legislation with no escape clause for criminals. The strategies must be dynamic, competitive and flexible to allow constant re-engineering to counter new threats. Conflict prevention, management, rule of law, human rights, poverty reduction, youth and female gender empowerment are also palliative strategies. The adequate and education of the security agents is very necessary as some of them appear to be school dropouts with no proper security training. Tackling cross border crimes through enforcement and legislation will not be sufficient to ensure sustainable development this is because the underlying causes to nearly all cross border crimes have links to economic disparity, bad governance and poverty. These three key elements are the bedrock of state failure and global terrorism.

Also rather than popularly seeking ways on what measure to adopt to ensure to secure the border, an alternative strategy should focus on what should be done to counter trans-national criminalities. A mixture of trans-border intelligence-led policing and combat operations on land, sea and air is necessary stem these dangerous threats.

**LAND:** Rather than focus attention on checking points, fences and routine grounds attention should be shifted to reconnaissance, surveillances, intelligence gathering and interdiction.

**SEA:** Serious attention must be paid to the maritime borders which of recent have become hospitable to human traffickers, drug smugglers and dealers.

**AIR:** The nation must be able to determine what takes place in its air space. This can be done through effective radar tracking systems and air border patrols.

**INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT:** Interior security networking can be of immense benefit to border security. It can effectively check illegal unauthorized entries, work permit abuse, alien control and destruction of dumped drugs and other contrabands.

**HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT/ TRAINING:** Background checks should be conducted with an independent manpower survey to determine the caliber of manpower held. Training and development should be a progressive in security services to keep them abreast of modern trends. All officers and men must be computer literate and technically sound.

A combination of these strategies will go a great extent in delivering our country from a wide range of transnational criminal activities and therefore encourage overall development. The state will continue to be the main international actor and unless people
have peace in their daily lives, peace will continue to elude the world. Rethinking and reformulating the notion of security requires a more comprehensive conceptualization of issues that are capable of addressing fears, hunger and the death of human beings.

13. REFERENCES


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